


4-9928

11-9405/1

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
THROUGH: Deputy Director (Intelligence) *nah*
SUBJECT: Discontinuance of the CIA Foreign Radio
Frequency Usage Reference Facility
REFERENCE: Memorandum for DCI from AD/CR dated
23 November 1959, same subject

25X1

I have signed the referenced memorandum since the DD/P has had only a small proportion of the service requests to the Radio Stations Branch. However, since that Branch has been of particular service to the two major radios of the IO Division, I would like to request that the question of the continuation of the functions of the Branch be placed before USIB to determine whether they cannot be carried out somewhere else. If the functions were completely eliminated as a U.S. Government activity, DD/P interests might not be adequately covered in future negotiations involving the complicated problem of radio frequencies.


Richard M. Bissell, Jr.
Deputy Director
(Plans)

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Executive Registry

11-9405

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF CENTRAL REFERENCE

23 November 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Discontinuance of the CIA Foreign Radio
Frequency Usage Reference Facility

1. This action memorandum contains recommendations in para. 9 involving the USIB and the NSC.
2. In keeping with directives from the DD/I to effect certain reductions in OCR by June 30, 1960, we have concluded that it is preferable to eliminate a discrete unit rather than to allocate cuts across the board and thereby reduce further the operational capabilities of several units. Because the mission of the Radio Stations Branch is in many respects less closely related to the main thrust of CIA responsibilities, we have selected it as the unit to abolish in order to save 30 people.
3. The Radio Stations Branch (RSB) was established in early 1954 pursuant to NSC 169. Its mission includes the collection and maintenance of a centralized machine controlled file of information on foreign radio frequency usage and radio stations particulars. Information regarding volume of business, source of requests, and customer evaluation, is summarized in (TAB "A").
4. OSI, for the purpose of possibly recommending its discontinuance, has under review another function started pursuant to NSC 169: the evaluation of the technical effectiveness of U.S. international broadcasting. While this evaluation function is related to the Radio Stations Branch

EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE

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mission, its continuance is not dependent on the existence of RSB.

5. Discussions with NSA, OCDM, USIA, and FCC have clearly indicated that none is in a position to accept the transfer of this function to it. Each is faced with the same problem we have in making reductions. NSA did offer to accept responsibility, provided we furnish and indefinitely support 10 analysts. Under this arrangement, we would need at least one additional in CIA to serve in staff capacity. While this would seem to assure continuation of some service, it would not be a wholly satisfactory arrangement. Moreover, we would still have to select other functions to which an 11 man cut could be allocated. In view of present OCR man power commitments to the testing of the MINICARD system and prospective work on the DD/I automatic data processing feasibility study, we cannot further reduce our operating units without seriously disrupting regular services rendered the community.

6. Since RSB was established to implement NSC 169, we do not feel that the DCI should abolish it without notifying the NSC. NSC Action 1910 did rescind NSC 169, but did so subject to the understanding that "Such rescission is not, of itself, intended to cancel or change any of the programs authorized or being carried out under NSC 169 . . .". In view of this wording, we believe that formal NSC action may not be required but that notification of intent to the Executive Secretary will suffice.

7. The RSB was designed to provide a service of common concern in a specialized field; it has been so considered by the intelligence community since its inception despite lack of a DCID covering its operations. Hence, we believe you should notify the USIB members of plans to discontinue this service prior to going to the NSC.

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8. Transmittal of notification to the NSC should be via OCDM in view of the coordinating responsibility of that agency under NSC Action 1910 b (2).

9. Recommendations:

- a. That DCI approve present OCR plans for discontinuing the Radio Stations Branch at the end of the current fiscal year.
- b. That DCI place the draft memorandum for the Executive Secretary, NSC, on the USIB agenda for noting and such discussion as it may evoke (TAB*B*B).
- c. That DCI then sign the draft and forward it to the NSC via OCDM.

PAUL A. BOREL,
Assistant Director
Central Reference

CONCURRENCES:

SIGNED

25 NOV 1959

Deputy Director (Intelligence)

(SIGNED) WILLIAM H. TROTT, Jr.

Deputy Director (Plans)

Signed 27 NOV 1959

Deputy Director (Support)

The recommendations in paragraph 9 are approved.

8 JAN 1960

Date

SIGNED

Director

S-E-C-R-E-T

TAB "A"

OSDAB-3-15

3 September 1959

TAB
"A"

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD
COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTATION

Radio Stations Branch

1. A reassessment of Agency priorities and the need to effect reductions of personnel and money used in OCR has resulted in a tentative decision to discontinue the Radio Stations Branch at the close of the current fiscal year. Final decision will be based on the result of discussions being held with the Executive Secretary of the NSC, the Office of Civil Defense Mobilization, and major users of this reference service.
2. The purpose of this paper is to alert users of RSB of the proposed action, and to furnish information about RSB which may be useful in subsequent discussions between interested parties.
3. The Radio Stations Branch was established in early 1954 as a result of NSC action on NSC 139, Annex B, dated 27 Oct. 53, and reiterated in NSC Action 191C, dated 17 Nov. 58. Among other things the RSB mission includes the collection and maintenance of a centralized machine controlled file of information on foreign radio frequency usage and radio stations particulars. Over the years it has furnished data to many agencies in the telecommunications field, including those concerned with the International Telecommunications Administrative Radio Conference now in progress in Geneva. During FY 1959, for example, RSB responded to almost 3500 requests from over 20 different organizations of government (see TAB "A"). Main consumers were:

OSI/CIA	1097 requests	30%
NSA	620 "	18
USIA/VOA	477 "	14
CGDM	264 "	8
	2358	70%
4. The basic publication of RSB is the three volume Observed Radio Frequency Usage (ORFU) of which some 400 copies are disseminated.
5. Examples of service rendered by RSB in recent months are summarized in TAB "B".
6. The usefulness of the service given by RSB is evidenced by letters of appreciation received from users, some of which are excerpted in TAB "C".


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CODIB-D-45
3 September 1959

7. Action: This paper has been put on the Agenda of the next meeting of CODIB for noting, or such discussion as it may elicit in view of CODIB's responsibility under DCID 1/4 (New Series), para. 3 (d).


Paul A. Borel
Chairman

Attachments:

TAB "A"
TAB "B"
TAB "C"

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TAB "A"
 CODIB-L-45
 3 September 1959

Service Requests Placed On
Radio Stations Branch
FY 1959

CIA:			
DDI -			
OSI	1037		
	97		
PIC	83		
ORR	68		
OCR	4		
OCI	1		
Total DDI		1290	
DDS -		205	
IDP -		32	
Total CIA		1527	44%
Community:			
Defense -			
NSA	620		
Army	90		
Navy	84		
AF	36		
Coast Guard	13		
Total Defense		843	24.6%
USIA		477	
OCDM		264	
		180	
Federal Communications Commission		129	
State		26	
		5	
NASA		4	
		1	
Total Non-Defense		1086	31.4%
Total Community		1929	56%
Grand Total		3456	100%

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TAB "C"
CODIB-D-45
3 September 1959

Excerpts From Letters Received
From Users of RSB Service

25X1 a. [] Director of Communications/CIA: "We take this opportunity to express appreciation for the service which my office receives from the Radio Stations Branch. It has been our experience that information essential to the efficient operation of my Special Programs Staff, Supplementary Activities Branch, can be obtained from no other source."

b. Edgar T. Martin, Engineering Manager, Broadcasting Services, United States Information Agency: "I wish to express the appreciation of this office for the work performed by the Radio Stations Branch in the preparation of the various machine tabulation runs of the International Frequency Registration Board's draft plan for the High Frequency Broadcasting Service. This data . . . has saved this, and other interested government agencies, a very large number of man-hours in the analysis of the IFRB draft plan and its effect upon the United States broadcasting effort. In addition, the machine runs made possible many important comparisons which would not have been feasible otherwise. The tabulated data has already been used by this Agency and several other government committees as a basis for preparing the US position for the High Frequency Broadcasting Service that will be presented at the International Radio Conference scheduled to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, later this year and I am sure that the tabulations will further prove to be very valuable to our delegation at the Conference."

c. Roscoe C. Huggins, Colonel, Signal Corps, Commanding, United States Army Signal Intelligence Agency: "This is to express our appreciation for the services rendered by the Radio Stations Branch . . . in furnishing timely radio facilities information. Since the inception of this service, this agency has made considerable use of the product and has found it to be invaluable in the preparation of certain telecommunications studies. The flexibility in being able to request the information in any sequence or category has been of extreme benefit. This obviates the necessity for manual sorting and selection of the data which was the only method available to us prior to your consolidation of the information. This agency has a continuing need of this valuable service and wishes to acknowledge our sincere appreciation for your splendid cooperation."

25X1 d. Office of Naval Intelligence, Department of the Navy: "I believe that the Radio Stations Branch [] facility has tremendous potential as an intelligence research tool, especially if it can have full and unrestricted access to the data of all our national security agencies."

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TAB "C"
COLIB-D-45
3 September 1959

e. I. E. Eskridge, Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Chief, Office of Operations: "Your agency recently performed a most useful service in connection with the Loran-C Radionavigation System program in the European area. This program . . . was undertaken to meet an urgent requirement of the Department of Defense for an accurate radionavigation system in certain strategically-important areas . . . Your agency made a very substantial contribution by recording and analysing monitoring data submitted by the U.S. Navy and the Coast Guard."

f. T. M. Peterson, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Department of the Navy: "The Radio Stations Branch provides a service which is not obtainable in the organized, complete, and detailed form in any other U. S. activity. In the future, we would be most appreciative if particular attention could be paid to building up greater breadth of data in the frequency spectrum below 60 kilocycles per second . . . also to frequency usage by each of the Soviet Bloc military as well as civilian users within the vhf communications bands."

g. Arthur L. Lebel, Acting Chief, Telecommunications Division, Department of State: "It is desired to express appreciation to the Agency for the part played by its representatives in the Radio Stations Branch in preparation of the analysis of a large amount of miscellaneous monitor data."

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TAB "B"

23 November 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Secretary
National Security Council

VIA : Director of Civil and Defense Mobilization

SUBJECT : Foreign Radio Frequency Usage Reference Facility

1. In view of our current priorities and the need for effecting personnel and budgetary cuts, I have concluded that this Agency cannot continue to operate its foreign radio frequency usage reference facilities (the Radio Stations Branch) organized pursuant to NSC 169 (rescinded by NSC Action 1910).

2. We have discussed a proposal to discontinue this service at the end of the current fiscal year with the major user agencies and with the United States Intelligence Board. While all interested agencies would like this activity to be continued, none is in a position to take it over.

3. CIA itself accounts for 44% of the demands made on the Radio Stations Branch. Outside of CIA, the largest users are the National Security Agency (18% of requests levied), the United States Information Agency (14%), and the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization (8%).

4. In my opinion, the discontinuance of our programs in the field of radio frequency usage, while undesirable, will be less harmful than would an equivalent reduction of other programs of this Agency. I am prepared to adjust CIA programs to reduce, if not eliminate, present

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dependence on the Radio Stations Branch, and hope other users may do likewise.

5. I am forwarding this memorandum through the Director of Civil and Defense Mobilization in view of his coordinating responsibilities under NSC Action 1910.

Allen W. Dulles
Director

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TAB "B"

23 November 1959

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Allen W. Dulles
Director

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Dulles

Just before you left for Florida you said
you wished to take this matter up at your Deputies'
Meeting when you returned.

FMC

FMC

30 December 59

(DATE)